

to carry on. And that causes more urbanization of valuable farm and ranch land.

This legislation recognizing the importance of our small farming and ranching businesses. They provide diversity in the market place, local production of food, less pollution, and jobs, all of which strengthen our economy. And, farms and ranches that are part of our community remind us that food and other agricultural products don't just come from stores, and remind us of our connection to the land.

Mr. Speaker, small farms and ranches have provided the livelihood for many families since the beginning of our country. This bill will help ensure small farms and ranches do not become a thing of the past by providing the technical expertise and capital to allow them to meet the challenges of the 21st Century.

FACT SHEET—FAMILY FARM AND RANCH INNOVATION ACT

Summary: Bill would authorize the USDA to assist Small farmers and ranchers who want to improve their operations by developing Innovation Plans and would authorize the Small Business Administration to provide loan guarantees to implement these plans.

LOAN AUTHORITY

Bill authorizes the Administrator of the Small Business Administration to guarantee, under section 7(a) of the Small Business Act, loans to small businesses engaged in farming and ranching, for the purpose of implementing Agricultural Innovation Plans.

AGRICULTURAL INNOVATION PLANS

Plans are to be developed on request of a farmer or rancher whose operation has been certified as a small business concern under the definition of the Small Business Administration.

Plans are designed to increase the on-farm or on-ranch income of small farmers or ranchers and protect the environmental quality of the farm or ranch where the farming and ranching operation is located by minimizing the production of pollutants and conserving the natural resource of the farm or ranch.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service, will develop the plans.

A PEACEFUL DIALOGUE BETWEEN CHINA AND TAIWAN MUST RESUME

HON. W. TODD AKIN

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2003

Mr. AKIN. Mr. Speaker, at present there are more than 400 Chinese missiles targeted on Taiwan. It is estimated that roughly 50 more are being added each year. Moreover, China has devised strategies to destroy Taiwan's political, financial, military, communications and production centers within days. What is even more menacing is that China has reiterated that it will use force against Taiwan if Taiwan refuses to accept China's "one country, two systems" unification formula.

China's intimidation of Taiwan is unworthy of its status as a major world power. China must not ignore Taiwan President Chen Shui-bian's repeated pleas for resumption of cross-strait dialogue. If war breaks out in the Taiwan Strait, China, Taiwan and the rest of the countries in the Asian-Pacific will all suffer irreparable economic and political damage.

Our friends and allies in Europe regard peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait as critical to everyone's interests in Asia. On September 5, 2002, the European Parliament passed a resolution calling on China to remove its missiles along Taiwan's coast. Last October, the Czech Parliament also passed a similar resolution calling on China to remove its missiles from the Taiwan Strait.

The United States believes that a military clash in the Taiwan Strait must be avoided. A peaceful dialogue between China and Taiwan must resume now. It is my hope that Beijing will begin dismantling the missiles currently targeting Taiwan and pursue a peaceful resolution of current tensions with Taiwan. I support efforts of the U.S. State Department to this important end.

In the meantime, while we advocate the peaceful resolution of the Taiwan issue, we must continue to sell arms to Taiwan to help Taiwan protect itself, under the framework of the Taiwan Relations Act. Our commitment to defend Taiwan is, and must remain, strong and unequivocal.

INTRODUCTION OF A BILL TO PROHIBIT THE COMMERCIAL HARVESTING OF ATLANTIC STRIPED BASS

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2003

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, today I introduce legislation to prohibit the commercial harvesting of Atlantic striped bass in the coastal waters and the exclusive economic zone of the United States. This legislation would grant protections to this species that would enable coastal populations to return to historical abundances.

The Atlantic striped bass is a valuable resource along the Atlantic coast and is one of the most important fisheries for recreational anglers within the sixth Congressional District of New Jersey. As ranking member of the Subcommittee on Fisheries Conservation, Wildlife, and Oceans, I have a long history of involvement in protecting, preserving, and enhancing the striped bass fishery. It is in this spirit that I would like to designate the striped bass as a federal game fish. This bill would prohibit the commercial harvesting of striped bass and reserve this resource for recreational catches only, thereby ensuring a healthy and sustainable recreational fishery.

The recovery of the striped bass fishery since the crash of the late 1970's is an example of successful state and federal cooperation and angler support over the last two decades. The population rebound is encouraging, but a recent Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission decision to both increase the commercial quota and open the exclusive economic zone to striped bass fishing could lead to serious consequences for striped bass. I feel that this decision is too much, too soon, and it is imprudent to subject the fishery to these intensified demands. I believe we must take precautionary measures now to avoid the potential threat of a collapse in the future.

In the interest of responsible conservation and sustainable recreational fisheries, I support the goal of making striped bass a game

fish along the entire coast. I believe that this is the only way we can truly ensure the future of this important species.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation to protect the Atlantic striped bass, a species that maintains an immensely popular recreational fishery. I appreciate this opportunity to convey my concerns about the management of this prized fishery, and I look forward to continuing my involvement in ensuring sound policy decisions.

CONGRATULATIONS TO CAMP ALVERNIA ON ITS 115TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2003

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the 115th anniversary of Camp Alvernia, located in Centerport, NY.

In its first summer in 1888, Camp Alvernia's Franciscan Brothers brought deserving poor youth from Brooklyn to the country environment during the summer months. Since then, the camp has been dedicated to teaching their campers respect for themselves, each other and our environment.

Camp Alvernia also provides scholarships for families who find themselves in financial difficulty. They are committed to helping families and children from impoverished situations to develop spiritually, morally and physically while enjoying Long Island's beautiful environment.

Campers at Camp Alvernia enjoy sports, arts and crafts, nighttime campfires and many more activities.

I commend Camp Alvernia and their staff for their dedication to our nation's children, and congratulate them on their 115th anniversary.

A TRIBUTE TO SALLY KENDALL BALDWIN, 29TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT WOMAN OF THE YEAR—2003

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2003

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Women's History Month. Each year, we pay special tribute to the accomplishments made by our nation's most distinguished women during the month of March. It is my great honor to recognize extraordinary women who are making a difference in my district.

I stand today, to recognize an outstanding woman of California's 29th Congressional District, Ms. Sally Kendall Baldwin. Ms. Baldwin's passion for community service, especially on behalf of education and the arts, has made the City of San Gabriel a better place in which to live.

A native Californian, Ms. Baldwin attended UCLA, majoring in Elementary Education. In 1960, she met and married Harry Baldwin, currently a San Gabriel City Councilman, and they have two children, Kendall and Gregory. After college, the Baldwin family moved to San Gabriel, California.